

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 15, 2001

LB 851

drawing of lines based strictly on race, the Supreme Court explicitly allowed the drawing of boundaries based strictly on political considerations. A district that was drawn in such a way as to look like a gerrymandered gerrymander could not stand when the argument was made and accepted that it was drawn that way because of racial considerations to contrive a majority black district. But when that monstrosity, as some people called it, was justified on the basis of politics, namely to insure a safe democratic seat, the U.S. Supreme Court said that is all right. Politics runs redistricting. I am nonpolitical, I don't belong to either party, but I'm the only one who will acknowledge on this floor the nature of what we're doing, that's why I'm an Independent. When you count up the number of people who are "Repelicans" and the number who are "Demagogos" on this floor, that can tell you who the important or significant issues are going to be resolved. That's why I seem, to some people, to be so smart; it's not that I know more than anybody else, it's not that I see things that other people don't see, although on occasion I might, as on occasion each one of us might, but it's...it boils down the fact that I'm willing to articulate as clearly as I can what it is that I actually see. I try, to the extent that I can, to see the reality that is in front of me. And the reality that I see, which may prove later on to be an inaccurate perception on my part, that Senator Schimek, Senator Bourne and their camp are chasing rainbows. I'm going to watch and see how this comes out. Senator Bromm's side will give up whatever people in Sarpy County wants. There seems to have been some contention over what's to be done with a county called Madison, a county called Gage, and a county called York, perhaps. And you're going to take the most difficult, contentious notions, which cannot be resolved at this point, and move them along with the expectation that a bit of percolation is going to result in reconciliation and those problems will be solved to everybody's satisfaction and we will have achieved, Senator Suttle, political salvation, if you get my drift. I am enjoying watching the political process in action, and when I say political, I mean in the partisan sense. I'm not condemning anybody for carrying out the wishes of their party, that is expected. I know it's going to happen,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.